

'83 as the champion of cheap food, if the King had not carried the election of Brembre by force. Many of the late Mayor's supporters were slain, imprisoned, or forced to fly the city.<sup>1</sup> The grocer, thus installed by royal interference, reversed his predecessor's policy, and restored all privileges to the injured trades. The ex-Mayor soon gave his enemies a handle against him. His friends complained of the violence by which the elections had been carried, demanded a writ for a new poll, and entered into negotiations with John of G-aunt.<sup>2</sup> Riotous meetings against the existing government of the city took place in many quarters of London. John of Northampton was arrested when returning from one of these demonstrations at Whitefriars.<sup>3</sup> Both Mayors had been guilty of questionable proceedings, but the party in power had always the law at its service. The King determined to get rid of the Duke's partisan. He was still brooding over the suspicion, which the friar had poured into his ear at Salisbury, that his uncle was plotting with \* certain citizens of London ' against his life.<sup>4</sup> John of Northampton was tried at Beading before a Council of Lords, over which Richard presided. As the Duke of Lancaster was absent in the North, the prisoner imprudently demanded the postponement of his sentence till his patron should return to take part in the proceedings. The King's face changed with passion. \* I will teach you,' he cried, \* that I am your judge, whether my uncle is absent or not.' In the heat of his anger he ordered the man to be carried off to execution, but when his fit of passion was over he revoked the sentence. After a brief imprisonment, the condemned man was brought up for a fresh trial before Chief Justice Tressilian in the Tower of London. Tressilian, fearing future reprisals, attempted to avoid trying the case, on the ground that it was within the jurisdiction of the city. But as the King insisted that he should proceed, he was forced to sentence the ex-Mayor and his two principal supporters. They were imprisoned in different castles. The leader himself was carried off to

<sup>1</sup> *Rot. Parl.* iii. 225 ; *Hidden*, ix. 30.

<sup>2</sup> *C. R. JR.*, 507, Eex. 39 (second side).

\* *C. R. R.*, 507, Rex. 39 ; *Higden*, ix. 30 ; *Wals.*, ii. 110-11.

<sup>4</sup> *Mon. JSye.*, 5Q»